

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is being filed under a Certificate of Mailing.

Claims 6, 14, 20-22, 24-27 and 29-31 remain pending in the present application.

Claim 6 has been amended. Claims 23 and 28 have been cancelled. No claims have been added.

§112 Rejection

Claim 6 was rejected under §112 as being indefinite. Claim 6 has been amended to recite that either the first or both the second and third components defines a groove and the other of either the first or both the second and third components includes a protrusion.

Therefore, this rejection is believed to be overcome.

§102 Rejection

Claims 14, 27, and 29-31 were rejected as being anticipated by EP0992225 (“Wack”). Independent claim 14 recites a first component that includes a restraining portion and second and third components that each define a cooperating portion for cooperating with the restraining portion to provide restrained motion of the second and third components relative to the first component. Wack does not disclose such a device. The enlarging portions do not move relative to the stem 10 while they are attached. Furthermore, claim 14 also includes the limitation that the second and third components are moveable independently. Because Wack does not disclose moving the enlarging portions, there is also no disclosure of moving them independently. For at least these reasons, claim 14 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over Wack.

§103 Rejection

Claims 6, and 20-26 were rejected as being obvious over DE 3630069 (“Parhofer”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,237,875 (“Termanini”). Independent claim 6 includes the limitations that the second and third components are separated by an opening that allows the components to move independently of one another. Neither Parhofer nor Termanini allow for the independent movement of the different components. As shown in Parhofer, when the drive element 7 is actuated to move the casing elements, the casing elements move the same amount, they do not move independently of one another. Termanini also does not disclose such a feature. The blades 7 are all moved the same amount by movement of the shaft 5. Because neither of the references, alone or in

combination, disclose the limitation that the second and third components are separable by an opening that allow the two components to move independently of one another, claim 6 and its dependents are believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

For the above-described reasons it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 6, 14, 20-22, 24-27 and 29--31 have been overcome and are currently in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be useful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 574-372-7332. Early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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DATED: July 10, 2008